

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method for timing the transmission of unsolicited grants (USGs) of bandwidth to transmit voice packets on a shared transmission medium comprising the steps of:
 - initializing a control terminal to receive packets of voice calls having parameters including a bit rate, a packetization interval, and a call identification;
 - creating a plurality of queues to define a corresponding plurality of phases at a sub-multiple of the packetization interval;
 - admitting voice calls to the control terminal;
 - distributing the voice calls among the queues in a predetermined order as the voice calls are admitted;
 - removing the voice calls from the queues as the voice calls are terminated; and
 - periodically issuing at the phases defined by the queues USGs that include a call identification and a grant of bandwidth sufficient to transmit the packets.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising the step of deactivating a voice call in a queue when a silent period is detected in a queue so the size of the granted bandwidth excludes the deactivated voice call.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, additionally comprising the step of reactivating a voice call in a queue when a detected silent period ends.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which the voice calls have different packetization intervals and the number of phases equals the least common multiple of the different packetization intervals divided by the [[the]] smallest packetization interval.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the control terminal is a cable modem termination system (CMTS) and the shared transmission medium is a cable transmission system, the method additionally comprising the steps of receiving the USGs at cable modems connected to the cable transmission system and transmitting voice packets from the cable modems to the CMTS responsive to the received grants.